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## **BPA sets public meetings on power line between Grand Coulee and Spokane**

**SPOKANE, Wash.** — The Bonneville Power Administration has scheduled four public meetings in eastern Washington communities to discuss a proposal to replace 84 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) wood pole transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV steel-lattice line. The project is called the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project.

BPA Project Manager Mark Korsness explained that these proposed lines would remove a bottleneck in the transmission system and support current and future demand for electricity in Washington and the Pacific Northwest. "They will also enhance service reliability in the region and provide for future growth," Korsness said.

The proposed 500-kV transmission line will connect from BPA's existing Bell Substation in Spokane to the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Grand Coulee switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam. The line will be located primarily on existing BPA right of way.

BPA introduced the Grand Coulee-Bell project to the community and received public comments on the project last winter. "The public comments focused on the visual impacts of the towers, electro-magnetic fields, impacts to farming and land use. Based on these comments, BPA added an additional alternative to consider in the Grand Coulee-Bell draft environmental impact statement," added Korsness.

BPA's original proposal consisted of new 125-foot tall single-circuit structures for the first 75 miles from Grand Coulee to Spokane, then larger 175-foot tall double-circuit structures for the last nine miles through Spokane to Bell Substation. BPA will now also

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study using single-circuit structures for most of the last nine miles to Bell substation. For the new alternative, the 500-kV single-circuit structures will be about the same height as the existing 125-foot tall 230-kV double-circuit structures.

The project will cost approximately \$152 million and increase transmission capacity from 2,800 to 3,500 megawatts.

A series of public open house meetings will be held to discuss the recently published draft environmental statement. Public meetings are scheduled for:

**Wednesday, Sept. 4** – 4 p.m.- 7 p.m., Coulee Dam City Hall, 300 Lincoln Ave., Coulee Dam, Wash.

**Thursday, Sept. 5** – 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Lincoln County Public Works Department, 27234 SR 25 North, Davenport, Wash.

**Friday, Sept. 6** – 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Quality Inn, 7919 North Division St., Spokane, Wash.

**Monday, Sept. 9** – 4 p.m.-7 p.m., Quality Inn, 7919 North Division St., Spokane, Wash.

In the public meetings, BPA project team members will discuss plans and options with anyone interested in or potentially affected by the project. People are invited to stop in any time during these open houses to ask questions and provide comments. Comments should be mailed to: Communications, Bonneville Power Administration – KC7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR., 97212 or emailed to [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov). BPA will accept comments until Sept. 23, 2002. The summary of the draft environmental impact statement is also posted on BPA's website at [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/projects](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/projects) scroll down to Grand Coulee-Bell. If you need additional information, call (888)-276-7790.

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